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EXAMINER
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SALCE, JASON P

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2623

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PAPER

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments filed 2/27/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that although the Williams device retrieves setting values for a presentation device from a table (database 700 of Figure 7), the Williams system isn't concerned with adjusting the media devices to correct differences in their respective outputs. The examiner agrees that the Williams system does not adjust the media devices, however, these limitations are not stated in the claims. Claim 14 states a receiving step at said multimedia system, for receiving a plurality of input signals, where each of the plurality of different media devices being associated with a respective one of the plurality of input signals. As disclosed by Williams in Figure 1, the system includes a plurality of media devices (**110 and 112 for example**) and each media device is **associated** with a respective one of the plurality of input signals (**A/V tuner and amplifier 110 is clearly associated with television channels that are requested by a viewer**). Williams further teaches retrieving, from a table of parameter entries (**database 700 in Figure 7**) associated with said input signals (**note that the parameter entries for Channel 2 includes the parameter "o" which represents "moderate volume" and Channel 2 is clearly associated with the media device that is used to tune to channel 2**). Therefore, Williams clearly teaches that each of said parameter entries (**further note Column 7, Lines 3-9 for storing volume, contrast and brightness parameter entries**) is associated with one of said plurality of

input signals because when Joe user selects channel 2 or radio channel 750KHZ (**one of a plurality of input signals in Figure 7**), Joe user will listen to channel 2 at moderate volume and 750KHZ at low volume according to the volume parameter entry. Williams clearly teaches that parameter entries are associated with one (**or more**) of the plurality of input signals (**television and radio**). As requested by Applicant, the parameter entry is in fact "+", "-" or "o" and they are associated with the input signal "Channel 2" or "750KHZ" as disclosed in Figure 7 (**and further note other parameter entries at Column 7, Lines 3-9**).

Applicant also argues that the Williams, Morrison and Lepley patents cannot be combined because Williams teaches away from being modified in the manner proposed in the Office Action. Applicant has specifically requested that the subsequent Office Action explain how the cited patents are being construed to teach or suggest "modifying said one signal" or "setting said at least one parameter of said output signal".

As stated in the previous Office Action, Williams discloses receiving multiple input signals and allowing a viewer to request an input signal and view or listen to the input signal using the user's preferred settings (**Figure 7 for the user's preferred settings**), however Williams is silent in regards to modifying the input signal before outputting the signal to the user for viewing or listening. For example, Williams clearly teaches that a television channel or radio station can be viewed or listened to at different volume levels, but Williams fails to disclose that the television channel or radio signal is modified prior to output to the television or audio components.

Williams could clearly benefit from modifying the signal before outputting the signal to a television or audio components in order to relieve the system of Williams from continually adjusting the output devices (**television or audio components**) every time a different input signal has been selected.

Therefore, the examiner had provided the Morrison reference, which teaches a database that also stores parameter entries similar to that of the Williams references for adjusting volume and various other settings, depending on the input signal selected (**see Figure 2 and Column 3, Lines 18-58**). Morrison also teaches the advantage of modifying the signal before providing the video or audio signal to the television display 158 or the audio components 136 (**see Figure 3 and Column 4, Line 58 through Column 5, Line 35 for adjusting the video and audio signal according to the parameter entries in Figure 2 before output to the a display or audio device**).

Williams would clearly benefit from the teachings of Morrison in order to relieve the system of Williams from continually adjusting the actual output devices (television or audio components) and therefore yielding optimal viewing conditions (**see Column 2, Lines 63-64 of Morrison**).

Lepley has been added to the combination to teach the switch lacking from the Williams and Morrison reference.

### ***Specification***

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Claims 54-59 do not provide support for the claim limitation "computer-readable medium".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 54-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 54-59 recite a computer-readable medium containing computer instructions, said instructions and data for carrying out operations. There for two issues regarding non-statutory subject matter in the claims.

Because the claims lack antecedent basis from the specification, the computer readable medium can be interpreted as a disk or memory type storage medium or a signal type medium. The examiner notes that signal claims have been deemed non-statutory (see MPEP 2106).

Further, even if the specification only stated that a computer-readable medium is a disk or memory type storage medium, the claims only recite program steps and are therefore a program per se with no device to recognize and execute the program (see MPEP 2106).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-22, 47, 52-61 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988) in view of Morrison et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,502).

Referring to claim 14, Williams discloses receiving, at said multimedia system, the plurality of input signals (**see elements 124, 126, 134, 128, 110, 112, 106 and 114 in Figure 1 for a plurality of input signals that are received by multimedia system 108**), each of the plurality of different media devices being associated with a respective one of the plurality of input signals (**see Figure 1 for compact disk player 112 (media device) being associated with a respective one of the plurality of input signals (by outputting the an audio signal from a CD, the input signal being the signal created from the CD media)** and further note audio/video tuner 110 (media device) being associated with a respective one of the plurality of input signals (**by tuning to one of the signals of a plurality of input signals from cable broadcast input**)).

Williams also discloses selecting one of said media input signals for presentation to a user of said system (**see Column 3, Lines 58-63 for a remote control communicating with the components of the system**).

Williams also discloses retrieving the plurality of setting values for a presentation device (**see database 700 in Figure 7, which associates a volume and channel setting with a television (presentation device)**) with each of a plurality of media input devices having media input signals in a multimedia system (**see settings for a computer and audio components in Figure 7, also note that a plurality of media input devices are also disclosed by elements 110, 112, 106 and 114 in Figure 1**), said plurality of setting values being configured to affect an output of the presentation device (**see database 700, which stores various values for settings, such as volume and which channels to display to the viewer, thereby teaching a plurality of settings with values configured to affect the output (audio of video output) of the presentation device**), wherein each of said parameter entries is associated with one of said plurality of input signals (**see the various channel and volume setting relating to the input received and output by a television in Figure 7**).

Williams also discloses modifying, in response to the selecting of said one media input signal for presentation (**see selecting a television program to watch at Column 5, Lines 19-29, which clearly teaches modifying the volume according to the value specified in the user database 700, in response to selecting of the media input signals for presentation**), said one media input signal in accordance with one of said setting values, wherein said one setting value is associated with said one media input signal (**see Column 7, Lines 65-67 and Column 8, Lines 1-2**).

Williams also discloses presenting said one media input signal to said user with the presentation device having the value of said setting associated with a corresponding



media input device (see Column 5, Lines 39-62 for an example of presenting a channel (media input signal) to the user's television (presentation device) having a value stored in a user's profile stored in a database (see Figure 7), which relates settings to an input device).

Williams also discloses that said one selected signal comprises multiple channels (see again Figure 1 for an audio/video tuner 110 receiving a selected signal, wherein the selected signal contains multiples channels (video and audio of the selected television program) and further note in the case of CD player 112, a selected audio signal inherently contains left and right audio channels).

Although Williams discloses modifying the output of the signal according to the settings stored in database 700, by teaching sending control signals to manually adjust the television and fails to specifically disclose that the modified signal is transmitted to the presentation device.

Morrison discloses a television receiver that receives an RF input and external video and audio input (see elements 100 and VIDEO IN and AUDIO IN (Figure 3)), which transmits the video signal to a switch, which transmits either RF or external video output to a presentation device 158 in Figure 3. ***Also note that Morrison discloses a database similar to Williams database 700 in Figure 2, and that this database dictates what settings will be adjusted by circuits 155 and 135 in Figure 3, and then transmitted to the presentation device 158.***

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the multimedia signal system of Williams, using the

television receiver, as taught by Morrison, for the purpose of updating receiver characteristics such as audio and video settings without viewer involvement (**see Column 2, Lines 15-17 of Morrison**).

Referring to claim 15, Williams discloses that said output device is one of a plurality of output devices (see the television, computer and audio components listed in the database 700 of Figure 7 and the components in Figure 1).

Williams also discloses wherein each of said parameter entries holds multiple values ("CH", "VOL", "GENRE", etc. in Figure 7) each corresponding to one of said plurality of output devices (different volume settings, and different television channels shown in Figure 7 and that the plurality of settings correspond to 3 different output devices, the television, computer and audio components).

Referring to claim 16, Williams discloses that said output device is a first output device (the television in Figure 7) and said plurality of output devices comprises a second output device (the audio components).

Williams discloses that a first group of parameter entries ("TELEVISION") controls the presentation of media from a first output device (television/monitor 102, see default settings at Column 7, Lines 3-9), and a second group of said parameter entries ("AUDIO COMPONENTS") controls the presentation of media from a second output device (audio/video tuner and amplifier 110, see Column 7, Lines 9-11). The examiner notes that these citations disclose that the television/monitor 102 is linked to the

“TELEVISION” parameter entries in the user profile database, and the audio/video tuner and amplifier 110 is linked to the “AUDIO COMPONENT” parameter entries.

Referring to claim 17, Williams discloses receiving a selection code from said user representing said one signal (see Column 3, Lines 60-63 for system components and wireless communication transmitter for communicating with the system components at Column 4, Lines 11-19).

Morrison discloses switching said one input signal to said one output device (see element 137 in Figure 3 for switching between two different input signals). See the rejection of claim 40 for the proper motivation for using Morrison’s video switch 137 in Figure 3.

Referring to claim 18, Williams discloses receiving a parameter code for modifying the value of said parameter for only a particular one of said media devices (see Column 7, Lines 57-60 for providing user inputs to the system). The user input is the “parameter code”.

Williams also discloses a modified value of said parameter in response to said code (see logging the user inputs at Column 7, Lines 57-60). The logging of inputs is the “modified value”.

Williams also discloses storing said modified parameter value in an entry of said table corresponding to said particular one input signal (see updating user preference information found in appropriate records of the user profile at Column 7, Lines 61-62).

Williams also discloses presenting media from said selected signal to said output device in accordance with said modified parameter value (see display device 518 being a television at Column 12, Lines 30-31). It is inherent that the television will display the updated data in the user profile 700, for example if a change in the volume setting is selected, the next time the user views the particular, the volume might change from moderate to low, based on the users previous configuration (see again Column 7, Lines 52-62 for updating the user profile 700).

Referring to claim 19, Williams discloses that the said particular one signal is one of said signals currently selected in response to the said selection command (see Joe User viewing either channel 2 or 7 at Column 5, Lines 49-55).

Referring to claim 20, see rejection of claim 13.

Referring to claim 21, Williams discloses each of said table entries holds multiple values (different volumes) each corresponding to a different one of a plurality of parameters ("CH" or "VOL") associated with the presentation of media from said signals ("TELEVISION" or "COMPUTER"). See Figure 7.

Referring to claim 22, Williams discloses wherein said parameter code further specifies a particular one of said parameters as said parameter to be modified (see Column 3, Line 64 to show that the wireless I/O device is a wireless keyboard). A

keyboard has multiple keys; therefore it is inherent that a keyboard can send a particular parameter depending on which key is pressed. For example, remote controls that are well known in the art have a channel up or down key, or a volume up or down key.

Referring to claim 47, Williams further discloses that the plurality of media input signals are associated with a TV tuner and a DVD player (see devices 110 114 in Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 38-55).

Referring to claim 52, Williams discloses that one selected signal is a first input signal and at least one retrieved parameter value is a first retrieved parameter value and said modified one signal is a first modified signal (see the rejection of claim 14).

Williams also discloses selecting a second input signal for presentation instead of the first input signal (see the rejection of claim 14 for multiple input signals capable of being selected (see Figure 1 and 7)).

Williams also discloses modifying, in response to the selecting of said one media input signal for presentation (see selecting a television program to watch at Column 5, Lines 19-29, which clearly teaches modifying the volume according to the value specified in the user database 700, in response to selecting of the media input signals for presentation), said one media input signal in accordance with one of said setting values, wherein said one setting value is associated with said one media input signal (see Column 7, Lines 65-67 and Column 8, Lines 1-2).

Williams also discloses presenting said one media input signal to said user with the presentation device having the value of said setting associated with a corresponding media input device (see Column 5, Lines 39-62 for an example of presenting a channel (media input signal) to the user's television (presentation device) having a value stored in a user's profile stored in a database (see Figure 7), which relates settings to an input device).

Although Williams discloses modifying the output of the signal according to the settings stored in database 700, by teaching sending control signals to manually adjust the television and fails to specifically disclose that the modified signal is transmitted to the presentation device.

Morrison discloses a television receiver that receives an RF input and external video and audio input (see elements 100 and VIDEO IN and AUDIO IN (Figure 3)), which transmits the video signal to a switch, which transmits either RF or external video output to a presentation device 158 in Figure 3. Also note that Morrison discloses a database similar to Williams database 700 in Figure 2, and that this database dictates what settings will be adjusted by circuits 155 and 135 in Figure 3, and then transmitted to the presentation device 158, which again, is capable of selecting a **second** input signal instead of a first input signal.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the multimedia signal system of Williams, using the television receiver, as taught by Morrison, for the purpose of updating receiver

characteristics such as audio and video settings without viewer involvement (see Column 2, Lines 15-17 of Morrison).

Referring to claim 53, see the rejection of claim 47.

Referring to claims 54-59, see the rejection of claims 14-17, 52 and 47, respectively.

Referring to claim 60, Morrison discloses that said parameter entries are configured for multiple user sessions independent of any single user preferences (see Figure 2 for the parameters being for specific genres of programming).

Referring to claim 61, Morrison discloses that said parameter entries do not depend upon an identity of a user performing the selecting of said one of the signals (see Figure 2 for the parameters being for specific genres of programming).

Referring to claim 62, Williams discloses that each of said plurality of input signals is associated with one of said parameter entries for a given type of parameters, wherein the type of parameter is video brightness (**see Column 7, Lines 3-10 of Williams and Figure 2 of Morrison**).

Claims 28-44, 48-51 and 63-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,945,988) in view of Lepley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,389,963).

Referring to claim 28, see rejection of claim 40 (below).

Referring to claim 29, Williams discloses that the user input device is a keyboard having a number of buttons for producing said selection command (see wireless keyboard at Column 3, Line 64). It is inherent that a keyboard has more than one button.

Referring to claim 30, Williams discloses a data processor coupled to the output device for presenting signals to be presented thereon (see element 104 in Figure 1), and wherein said keyboard also includes an array of data-entry keys for the data processor (see wireless keyboard at Column 3, Line 64). Note that a keyboard sends commands to the data processor (see Column 4, Lines 17-19).

Referring to claim 31, Williams discloses that the input device is further adapted to produce a parameter modification command (user inputs at Column 7, Lines 54-55), and wherein said table is adapted to store a modified value of said parameter (logs each input at Column 7, Lines 54-55) in one of said table entries so as to affect the value of said parameter only for one of said media signals associated with said one



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table entry (see updating the user preference information found in the appropriate records of the user profile (Column 7, Lines 61-62).

Referring to claim 32, Williams discloses that the input device has a number of buttons for producing said parameter modification command (see rejection of claim 29).

Referring to claim 33, Williams discloses that the input device contains a wireless link such that said parameter modification command can be performed by said user from a position from which said output device is normally viewed (see rejection of claim 29, which also shows wireless link).

Referring to claim 34, Williams discloses that the parameter of said output signal is audio volume (see Column 7, Line 59).

Referring to claim 35, Williams discloses that the parameter of said output signal is color (see Column 7, Line 59).

Referring to claim 36, Williams discloses an output device (see element 518 in Figure 5).

Referring to claim 37, Williams discloses that the output device is a video monitor (see Column 5, Line 43).

Referring to claim 38, Williams discloses that the output device can be a sound system (see Column 5, Line 42).

Referring to claim 39, Williams discloses a DVD player (see Column 3, Line 42).

Referring to claim 40, Williams discloses a plurality of media devices, each providing a different media signal so that each of said plurality of media devices provide one of the media signals (see devices 110, 112, 114 and 106 in Figure 1 **and the rejection of claim 1**).

Williams also discloses a presentation device having parameters for controlling the presentation of said media signals received from the media devices (see element 102 in Figure 1 for presenting a media signal and Figure 7 for a database 700 that has parameters (user profiles) that controls the media signals (from a television or computer) received from media devices (see devices 110, 112, 114 and 106 in Figure 1)).

Williams also discloses an input device, for responsive to said user for selecting (through a selection command) one said media device and one said media signal from the one media device (see Column 3, Lines 60-63 for a user input device communicating with media devices and Column 7, Lines 20-33 for selecting a channel from the grid, where only channels from preferred media devices are presented, therefore the user is selecting a media signal from a specific media device).

Williams also discloses a table having a plurality of entries each holding values of the parameters for the presentation device based on the media device providing the media signal (see database 700 for holding a plurality of entries (volume, genre, etc.) each holding values (o, +, -, etc.) of the parameters of the presentation device (what the value will be for TV 102 in Figure 1 (o, +, -)) based on the media device providing the signal (television, computer or audio component)).

Williams also discloses a processor responsive to said selection command for accessing said values from said table (see element 104 in Figure 1 and Column 5, Lines -67 and Column 6, Lines 1-7), said values being in an entry corresponding to the media device providing the selected media signal (see again volume setting for a television and the different setting for multiple media devices in database 700 in Figure 7).

Williams also discloses an output controller (element 104 in Figure 1) coupled said bus and configured to modify the selected one of the media signals in accordance with said values for transmitting (see again Figure 7 and Column 5, Line 8 through Column 6, Line 7) to said output device (see element 106 in Figure 1) for applying values to the presentation device (the monitor 102) such that the media signal is presented in accordance with the parameters (see again Column 4, Lines 5-19 for controlling a VCR 106 (output device) coupled to system controller 104 (output controller) through a system bus 108, which outputs video signals to a television monitor 102).

Williams also discloses that said one selected signal comprises multiple channels **(see again Figure 1 for an audio/video tuner 110 receiving a selected signal, wherein the selected signal contains multiples channels (video and audio of the selected television program) and further note in the case of CD player 112, a selected audio signal inherently contains left and right audio channels).**

Williams discloses a bus for routing signals to the monitor 102 (presentation device) (see bus 108 in Figure 1 and Column 4, Lines 8-15 for routing media signals from the media devices (see devices 110, 112, 114 and 106 in Figure 1) to the presentation device (TV 102 in Figure 1)), but fails to teach a switch for transferring input signals to a presentation device.

Lepley discloses a switch 300 in Figure 1, which transmits an input signal selected from said plurality of said media signals from said plurality of different media devices to said output device in response to said selection command (see Column 5, Lines 17-29).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the bus, as taught by Williams, using the switch, as taught by Lepley, for the purpose of allowing a system that has multiple media sources to transmit requested audio/video signals from the sources to multiple rooms and allowing the use of a single switch for both audio and video signals, which reduces the cost and the interconnections (see Column 9, Lines 1-7 of Lepley).

Referring to claims 41 and 42, see rejection of claim 40 (**also note the rejection of claim 1**).

Referring to claims 48-50, Williams further discloses that the plurality of media input signals are associated with a TV tuner and a DVD player (see devices 110 114 in Figure 1 and Column 3, Lines 38-55).

Referring to claim 51, Williams teaches that at least one parameter of the one input signal is modified in producing said output signal having said at least one parameter set in accordance with said one value (see Figure 7 and Column 5, Line 8 through Column 6, Line 7 for the volume setting being adjusted when a specific television channel is selected).

Referring to claims 63-66, see the rejection of claim 62.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason P. Salce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7301. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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